

Subject: LADOT Day of Remembrance Press Release 2016

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PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Inquiries Only

Communications Office

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Day of Remembrance Road Concert

Site-specific works along 1st, Spring, 9th and Main in Downtown Los Angeles

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Councilmembers Mike Bonin and José Huizar along with the Los Angeles Departments of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and Transportation (LADOT) join local partners and the national Vision Zero Network in honoring Sunday, November 20 as the World Day of Remembrance for the victims of traffic fatalities.

Los Angeles, CA (Nov. 18, 2016) – LADOT's Artist-in-Residence Alan Nakagawa has partnered with the Vision Zero Alliance and Los Angeles Road Concerts to participate in the annual World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, commemorating the many millions of people killed and injured on the world's roads. The City of Los Angeles has adopted a Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities citywide by 2025, with an immediate goal of reducing traffic deaths by 20% by the end of 2017.

"Traveling through Los Angeles' neighborhoods should not be a life-threatening exercise," said Councilmember Mike Bonin. "Through better planning, better design, and better enforcement, we can prevent thousands of traffic crashes and save hundreds of lives every year. We have the tools, the abilities, and the obligation to keep people safe and be a Vision Zero city."

Together, the partnership between LADOT, the Vision Zero Alliance, and LA Road Concerts will produce a showing of site-specific projects from Los Angeles artists in unused, outdoor public spaces along a loop made of Spring St, 9th St, Main St, and 1st St in Downtown, LA.

"This unique event offers us an opportunity to come together as Angelenos to commemorate the victims and families affected by traffic fatalities," said Councilmember José Huizar. "Each one of us needs to do our part to make our streets safer, no matter our mode of transportation. I encourage all Angelenos to come to Downtown Sunday and experience these special art installations firsthand."

Over 600 people on foot were hit by cars in Downtown LA over 12 years, averaging a person a week. Sunday's event invited participating artists to make works that bring awareness to traffic violence, ponder solutions and utopias, remember the victims, investigate car culture, and explore the complexity of the problem.

"This partnership illustrates the power of the creative process to raise awareness and help solve some of the most important issues affecting Los Angeles," said Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the Department of Cultural Affairs. "We need to harness the creative talent we have in our community to achieve critical goals like eliminating traffic deaths."

In the United States, traffic crashes are one of the top causes of preventable death -- and they are on the rise. Speed is involved in nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities. In 2015 35,092 people were killed in traffic fatalities, a 7% increase over the prior year. To highlight the significant role that speed plays in traffic deaths and injuries in the U.S., a new interactive National Speed Fatality Map was released on November

17, in advance of the World Day of Remembrance, by the Vision Zero Network and the National Coalition for Safer Roads and is available for viewing on each organization's website. The map will highlight the distressing number of lives lost to speeding, city by city across the U.S.

"This is a sobering day – traffic deaths are preventable. Traffic violence is increasing, and we must use all of the tools that we have available to stop it," said Seleta Reynolds, General Manager of LADOT. "Art focuses people on safer streets for all of us."

For one day, participating artists will display installations, perform works, host spontaneous readings, and make music in unexpected spaces. "The event's participating artists come from a wide variety of artistic disciplines and life experiences, and they each offer something unique and enriching to the conversation about traffic violence and to our remembering and honoring of the victims," said Stephen van Dyck, organizer of LA Road Concerts.

Topics will include exploring the human behavior that causes people to make dangerous decisions like texting or drinking while driving, or how our transit systems reflect America's race and class inequalities and privilege the able-bodied. These art pieces will raise awareness to the issue of traffic violence, and the fact that #speedkills.

"Here in Los Angeles, too many of us have stories to tell," said Emilia Crotty, of Los Angeles Walks and the LA Vision Zero Alliance. "Stories of a father killed while crossing the street, a niece still recovering from a hit and run, or scary near-misses of our own. On Sunday, we will remember those we've lost and re-commit to ending traffic deaths in our city."

WHAT: Celebration of World Day of Remembrance for Victims of Traffic Fatalities

WHEN: Sunday November 20, 2016, 11 AM - 5 PM

WHERE: Site-specific works along 1st, Spring, 9th and Main in Downtown Los Angeles

FREE

You can learn more about the day's activities by visiting the facebook event here --
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1239493449406854/>



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